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June 21 - June 28, 1990

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U.S. Department of Agriculture • Office of Public Affairs

USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE FOR UPLAND COTTON

Washington, June 21—Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard T. Crowder today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (micronaire 3.5-4.9) upland cotton (base quality) and the coarse count adjustment in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, June 22, through midnight Thursday, June 28.

Since the adjusted world price (AWP) is above the 1988 and 1989 crop base quality loan rates of 51.80 and 50.00 cents per pound, respectively, the loan repayment rates for the 1988 and 1989 crops of upland cotton during this period are equal to the respective loan rates for the specific quality and location.

The AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates. Because the AWP in effect is above the established loan rate, loan deficiency payments are not available for 1989-crop upland cotton sold during this period.

The six-week transition period from using current shipment prices to using forward shipment prices in the Northern Europe price component of the AWP calculation is complete. However, because both current shipment prices and forward shipment prices for "coarse count" cotton C.I.F. northern Europe are not yet available, the Northern Europe coarse count price this week will equal the 5-day average of the 3 lowest-priced current shipment prices for "coarse count" cotton C.I.F. northern Europe for the preceding Friday through Thursday. The six-week transition period for the Northern Europe coarse count price component of the AWP will begin whenever both the Northern Europe coarse count current price and the Northern Europe coarse count forward price become available.

In calculating the adjustment to average U.S. spot market location, Thursday's current shipment prices for U.S. Memphis territory and the California/Arizona territory as quoted for Middling 1-3/32 inch cotton C.I.F. northern Europe were used.

Based on data for the week ending June 21, the AWP for upland cotton and the coarse count adjustment are determined as follows:

Adjusted World Price

Northern Europe Price 82.12

Adjustments:

Average U.S. spot market location 13.37

SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton 2.20

Average U.S. location 0.39

Sum of Adjustments -15.96

ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE 66.16 cents/lb.

Coarse Count Adjustment

Northern Europe Price 82.12

Northern Europe Coarse Count Price -82.80

0.68

Adjustment to SLM 1-inch cotton -4.75

-5.43

COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT 0 cents/lb.

The next AWP and coarse count adjustment announcement will be made on Thursday, June 28.

Charles Cunningham (202) 447-7954

#

PHILIPPINES ELIGIBLE FOR MORE WHEAT UNDER EXPORT ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, June 22—Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard T. Crowder today announced an opportunity for sales of an additional 1.2 million metric tons of U.S. wheat to the Philippines under the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Export Enhancement Program.

Sales of U.S. wheat will be made to buyers in the Philippines at competitive world prices. The export sales will be made through normal commercial channels with the assistance of commodities from the inventory of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation. The subsidy will enable U.S. exporters to compete at commercial prices in the Philippine market.

This allocation will be valid for a one-year period as provided for in the invitation for offers. Details of the program, including the invitation of offers from exporters, will be issued in the near future.

For more information call Don Street, (202) 382-9240, or Larry McElvain, (202) 447-3224. For a tape-recorded message announcing the issuance of invitations under EEP call the CCC Operations Hotline, (202) 447-2042.

Sally Klusaritz (202) 447-3448

#

UNITED STATES DONATES FEED GRAINS TO TUNISIA

WASHINGTON, June 22—The United States has donated 45,000 metric tons of U.S. corn and 45,000 metric tons of U.S. sorghum to Tunisia, according to F. Paul Dickerson, general sales manager of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service.

The \$7.8-million donation will be sold by the Tunisian government to local feed millers and farmers for livestock feed, Dickerson said. The proceeds will be used to repair damage to soil and water conservation structures and farm-to-market roads caused by severe floods earlier this year.

“While the United States has traditionally supplied corn to Tunisia, this is only the second year that we have provided sorghum,” Dickerson said. “This donation will not only help the people of Tunisia, but may help develop a potential market for U.S. sorghum as well.”

The donation was made under Section 416(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949 which authorizes the donation of surplus commodities owned by USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation to needy people overseas.

Sally Klusaritz (202) 447-3448

#

PRIVATE EXPORTERS REPORT SALES ACTIVITY FOR PAKISTAN

WASHINGTON, June 22—Private exporters today reported to the U.S. Department of Agriculture export sales of 120,000 metric tons of soft white wheat, for delivery to Pakistan during the 1990-91 marketing year.

The marketing year for wheat began June 1.

USDA issues both daily and weekly export sales reports to the public. Exporters are required to report to USDA export sales of 100,000 metric tons or more of one commodity, made in one day, to one destination by 3:00 PM eastern time on the next business day following the sale. Export sales of less than these quantities must be reported to USDA on a weekly basis.

Thomas B. McDonald (202) 447-3273

#

NEW DNA TOOL SPEEDS DIAGNOSIS OF SWINE DYSENTERY

WASHINGTON, June 25—A new biotechnology tool can diagnose swine dysentery two to five times faster than current tests, according to a U.S. Department of Agriculture microbiologist.

A DNA probe, now being patented and ready for licensing to industry, was developed by microbiologists Neil S. Jensen and Thad B. Stanton of USDA's Agricultural Research Service in Ames, Iowa.

With the probe and a fecal sample from a pig, lab technicians can in a day or two identify the bacterium *Treponema hyodysenteriae*, or *T. hyo*, that causes swine dysentery. The DNA probe does the job by bonding to a unique gene sequence, "like a signature," in *T. hyo*, Jensen said.

"Quick diagnosis can be critical to control," Jensen said in a report in the latest issue of the agency's Agricultural Research magazine.

If detected early, he said, the disease can be treated with antibiotics. Current laboratory diagnoses take four to six days because they rely on culturing the fecal samples.

"In that time frame," Jensen said, "the quick-spreading disease could render a pig operation nonproductive."

The disease usually occurs in pigs two to eight weeks old and is commonly called "black or bloody scours" because it produces severe

intestinal lesions and diarrhea. Sick pigs become dehydrated and don't gain weight.

"In pigs, weight is money," Jensen said. "While the disease is not often fatal, it cuts profits for pig producers. Even if the young pigs recover and don't show clinical disease signs, they can be carriers to others in the herd."

At least half of all U.S. pig herds have been exposed to the bacterium, a slender, spiral form known as a spirochete.

Jensen and Stanton worked on the dysentery probe at the ARS National Animal Disease Center in Ames. According to the scientists, the new probe has a second advantage over culturing methods: it can differentiate *T. hyo* from two harmless spirochetes, *T. innocens* and *T. succinifaciens*, that also occur in pig intestines.

#

CHINESE OFFICIALS TO SPEND YEAR AT NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY

WASHINGTON—Two officials from agricultural universities in the People's Republic of China have begun a year of study as visiting scholars at the National Agricultural Library, Beltsville, Md.

Yang Wu, from Beijing Agricultural University Library, and Xu Xinhua, from the Southwest Agricultural University in Sichuan, came to Beltsville this spring to study NAL's agricultural information management technologies in an effort to improve the services of their universities' libraries.

Xu said she also hopes to improve "friendship and the exchange of materials" between NAL and her university.

While at NAL, Yang, who is head of automation for Beijing Agricultural University Library, is studying library automation technology and is working on projects using various NAL minicomputer systems. His university will be acquiring one of the systems in the near future.

This is Yang's second trip to NAL. In 1986, he visited the library as part of a Chinese delegation that spent 22 days touring U.S. farms and agricultural facilities. He has high regard for NAL.

"Because of NAL's integrated system for information services and network linking microcomputers and its main-frame computer, it is an ideal place to study automation," Yang said.

As for life in the United States, he had heard that a person "needs a car to do everything here." He is finding this is true, but he prefers a bicycle, which he rides to the library each day.

While studying at NAL, Yang is living with three scientists who work at USDA's Agricultural Research Center.

Yang is a graduate of Beijing Television and Broadcasting University. His wife is an engineer working with microfiche at the Peking University library. They have a five-year-old daughter.

Xu, head of the document retrieval department at the Southwest Agricultural University in China, is learning about NAL's collection and online retrieval technology. She said as yet, however, her university does not use computers. She has worked at Southwest Agricultural University for nearly 30 years and for the past five years has taught courses in document retrieval at the university.

She is taking courses to improve her English, but did say that the United States "is a beautiful and modern country. The life here is new and enjoyable."

Xu's husband is an administrator at the university where she teaches. They have a son, 22, who has graduated from college and a daughter, 19, who is in high school in China.

NAL's visiting scholar program allows professors and students from around the world who are interested in agricultural information to study at NAL. Stipulations are that scholars must pursue projects that will benefit NAL in addition to their universities, and the scholars must make their own living arrangements while at the library. NAL provides office space and needed resources as well as personalized assistance.

NAL is the largest agricultural library in the world. With the Library of Congress and the National Library of Medicine, NAL is one of three national libraries of the United States.

Brian Norris (301) 344-3778

Issued: June 25, 1990

#

ALF AIDS AGRICULTURE

WASHINGTON—The National Agricultural Library would like more people to get to know ALF. This ALF is not the wise-cracking, furry alien of television's popular situation comedy.

ALF, in this case, is NAL's computer bulletin board which provides access to, and a means to exchange, agricultural information and resources. ALF stands for Agricultural Library Forum.

The information contained on ALF is varied and can be helpful to many people working in agriculture, from farmers and exporters to researchers and scientists.

For instance, if an ALF-user had recently perused the board, he or she could have read detailed reports on marketing U.S. agricultural goods in 40 different countries; information on where to get training in low-input, sustainable agriculture; an advisory on a meningeal worm outbreak in goats in Oklahoma; and an exhaustive list of resources for those involved with the problems of the aging.

"ALF is a convenient and economical way to access, electronically, NAL information, products and services," said Karl Schneider, an NAL librarian and the ALF system operator. "It can be a boon to scientists, researchers, librarians and just plain folks interested in agricultural issues. What it offers is a forum to meet and exchange information anywhere in the world, at anytime of the day."

Schneider said ALF also can be used for brainstorming sessions. Recently, a professor from the University of Puerto Rico electronically asked other ALF-users for ideas on what he should include in a course on agricultural biotechnology. Another person wanted information on breeding parrots, macaws and parakeets. Still another person was looking for nominations of college seniors or recent college graduates to attend an international symposium on environmental leadership. All received replies through ALF.

ALF can be accessed 24-hours a day, 7 days a week by anyone with compatible computer equipment.

Information available on ALF ranges from bulletins to messages and computer conferences to whole files of material.

The "bulletins" section of ALF contains information on NAL's hours, policies, programs, services and contacts. It also has lists of special publications available from NAL, a calendar of events including NAL training workshops, and NAL job vacancies.

“ALF’s ‘messages/conferences’ section allows users to exchange comments and ideas, and have electronic dialogues by storing messages for later reply,” Schneider said. “Conferencing allows callers to participate in discussions with people who have similar agricultural interests.”

A “file transfer” section can be used to exchange programs, text and data files between callers.

“By downloading or uploading files in this section, users can share programs in the public domain and other non-copyrighted materials,” Schneider said. “Files currently available for downloading include the full-text of bibliographies published by NAL, technical notes, as well as expert advisory systems developed by NAL staff and users.”

Expert advisory systems are small-scale minicomputer systems that contain much of the advisory work done by experts in specific fields of agriculture. NAL has developed advisory systems on aquaculture, food and nutrition, and herbs, among others.

NAL has prepared a free user’s guide for ALF that is available by contacting: National Agricultural Library, Public Services Division, Room 100, Attn: ALF, 10301 Baltimore Blvd., Beltsville, Md. 20705; Telephone: (301) 344-1204.

To reach ALF, callers need a computer, a modem and communications software. The telephone numbers for ALF are (301) 344-8510/8511/8496/5497. Communications software should be set at 300, 1200 or 2400 baud, full duplex, no parity, 8 data bits and 1 stop bit. The ALF systems operator can be reached for voice communications at (301) 344-2113.

Brian Norris (301) 344-3778
Issued: June 25, 1990

#

USDA STEPS UP NATIONAL SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM FOR BSE IN CATTLE

WASHINGTON, June 25—U.S. Department of Agriculture animal health officials are cooperating with state veterinary diagnostic laboratories and Iowa State University to conduct a national surveillance program to verify that the United States is free of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), a fatal disease of cattle that has been found in Great Britain.

“BSE is not known to exist in this country,” said James W. Glosser, administrator of USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

“APHIS has prohibited the importation of live cattle from Great Britain since July 1989,” Glosser said. “Also, over 150 federal and state veterinarians constantly conduct field investigations of suspicious diseases and report their findings to us.”

Laboratories in the following states will be cooperating initially in the BSE surveillance program: California, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin. Since the organization of the program, additional states have requested to be included, so specimens may be received from other sources as well.

Fact sheets relating to BSE are available from APHIS Legislative and Public Affairs, Rm. 1147-S, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250.

Margaret Webb (301) 436-7799

#

WHEAT STARCH: BIODEGRADABLE WRAPPER FOR BREAD?

WASHINGTON, June 26—Will ultra-small beads of wheat starch give wheat a new market in biodegradable plastic films?

Researchers at U.S. Department of Agriculture labs are beginning exploratory work to look at the idea. If it pays off, “tomorrow’s sandwich bread might come wrapped in a bag that’s made from wheat,” according to the latest issue of USDA’s monthly science magazine, *Agricultural Research*.

Ideally, wheat starch could make biodegradable films that are thinner, stronger and chewed up faster by microorganisms than current biodegradables made with corn starch.

Corn starch granules, averaging 15 microns in diameter, limit how thin the film can be without having weak spots. But the smaller of wheat's two distinct sizes of starch granule is only 6 microns, according to chemist Jerold A. Bietz of USDA's Agricultural Research Service in Peoria, Ill. An inch has 25,641 microns.

"We're a long way from biodegradable plastic made with wheat starch," Bietz said. "The first need is a practical way to sort out the really small granules that would go into such plastics."

He's coordinating studies of air classification—using airstreams of differing velocities—to sort wheat starch granules at the agency's Northern Regional Research Center. The research is part of the Peoria center's efforts to find more ways to turn farm commodities into new commercial products.

At the Southern Regional Research Center in New Orleans, chemical engineer Robert J. Hron Sr. plans to test a granule-sorting process using a liquid cyclone.

Ben Hardin (309) 685-4011

#

WHEAT: STILL SOME MYSTERY IN AN ANCIENT CROP

WASHINGTON—Wheat and human civilization took root in each other thousands of years ago. But scrawny wild wheat plants from Turkey may still hold surprises, according to researchers at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. "Those wheats may look scrawny," said plant explorer Calvin Sperling of USDA's Agricultural Research Service, "but until you check them you never know what traits they may have."

That's what ARS scientists want to discover—just as they did in research on 16 strains of wheat plants imported from Japan just after World War II. With research on those short, stiff-strawed, heavy-headed agronomic curiosities, the Green Revolution began its 15-year-long germination, emerging in the 1960's with the release of Gaines and other high-yielding semi-dwarf wheats.

"Thanks to research, this food crop can be grown in many more areas of the world than was possible 50 years ago," said former ARS wheat breeder Orville A. Vogel in the June issue of the agency's Agricultural Research magazine. Vogel headed the team that developed Gaines.

Surprises and secrets still lie hidden in the paper-thin seeds of wild wheat—and in their fat, well bred cousins that today represent our primary food grain. Clues are being chased down in 199 ARS projects, according to part one of the magazine's three-part series on wheat research.

Highlights of part 1—which focuses on work to build a better wheat plant, improve milling, boost exports and develop new products—include:

—Computer simulations to find new milling strategies so more flour can be coaxed from each kernel. Each percentage-point improvement in the kernel's flour yield would be worth some \$36 million to millers.

—A study showing that 25 varieties from one of the country's oldest breeding programs—operated jointly by ARS and Purdue University—have meant more than \$5 billion in increased farm income.

—An interview with Orville Vogel on where wheat research has gone—'perhaps the most important contribution has been development of chemical weed controls.' And where the research is headed, for example, "great advances" expected in biological insect controls, along with "even faster" improvements to the wheat plant through emerging biotechnologies.

—A surprising find that a wheat strain checked for drought tolerance in 1988 showed resistance to Russian wheat aphids, the newest pest of U.S. small grains. The pest has cost U.S. growers of small grains—wheat, barley and rye—more than \$240 million since 1986.

—Exploratory work that could lead to thin biodegradable plastic films with more uniform strength, by using wheat starch granules, some of which average about 40 percent smaller in diameter than average granules of corn starch.

—Exploring ideas for new, wheat-based snack and convenience foods that use fresh, dried or concentrated fruits and vegetables, to boost export sales and meet U.S. consumers' increasing demands for freshness and nutrition.

—Release of more than 20 wheat breeding lines, resistant to a multimillion-dollar fungal disease, that fuel breeding efforts in 10 states and 11 foreign countries.

—A boost to the Chinese export market for California wheats, with a new flour blend that makes ideal dough for steam bread and ramen noodles.

—Two new hard red spring wheats from Minnesota with extra protein that could mean money in growers' pockets.

In July's Agricultural Research, the series will focus on research to help wheat growers combat pests and weather; part 3, in August, will look at the microscopic arena of genes and proteins.

Jim De Quattro (301) 344-4296

Issued: June 26, 1990

#

WIND EROSION DAMAGES 7.8 MILLION ACRES IN 1989-90

WASHINGTON, June 26—Wind erosion has damaged an estimated 7.8 million acres in the Great Plains during the November-through-May wind erosion season, reports the head of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Soil Conservation Service.

"This is down from last year, when nearly 14 million acres were damaged," said SCS Chief Wilson Scaling.

"Most of this decrease is the result of precipitation in Colorado and Kansas, where land damaged from wind decreased from 6.5 million acres last year to 463,000 acres this year for the two states.

"But with prolonged drought, not enough vegetative cover and limited snow cover in many places, we're going to see a lot of damage by wind erosion.

"We can't do much about the weather, but we'll be glad to help farmers and ranchers develop conservation plans to include field windbreaks and other measures to control wind erosion," Scaling said. "I'd encourage farmers and ranchers to contact their local conservation district to find ways to control wind erosion."

Scaling said the greatest damage was in North Dakota, in its third year of continuous severe drought. The state reported 2.9 million acres damaged, its second highest on record. North Dakota accounted for more than a third of the total wind erosion in the ten Great Plains states. Kansas, after setting a record with 5.1 million acres damaged last year (largely due to a one-day windstorm that damaged nearly 4.8 million acres), reported about 190,000 acres damaged this year. The least damage was in Nebraska, which reported 130,000 acres damaged.

Nearly 90 percent of the total land damaged was cropland, with the rest mostly rangeland. SCS reports land damaged when small mounds or drifts of soil are observed, or blown soil covers vegetation. SCS conducts

its survey during the wind erosion season in 541 counties in the Great Plains states.

Farmers used emergency tillage to prevent land damage on nearly 2.3 million acres. This compares with 3 million acres treated last year at this time. When there is enough moisture, this practice of roughening the surface temporarily helps control wind erosion. Texas, with nearly 1.5 million acres, accounted for 66 percent of the total.

Land reported in condition to blow was 16.2 million acres, 7.1 million acres less than last year. North Dakota reported nearly 6.7 million acres and Texas reported 2.6 million acres. Low soil moisture and limited snow cover have been the most prominent factors contributing to this potentially hazardous condition.

A state-by-state summary of estimated land damaged during the wind erosion season between Nov. 1, 1989, and May 31, 1990, follows. For comparison, information is also provided for the same period a year ago and for the record high. A table follows on total land damaged estimates for the years 1955-1990.

Wind Erosion Damage, November 1989 to May 1990, and Record Highs

Estimated Acres Damaged					
Counties Reporting		Nov. 1989- May 1990	Nov. 1988- May 1989	Record High* Acres	Year
Northern Great Plains:					
Montana	40	1,249,665	1,832,025	2,648,121	1980-81
Nebraska	21	130,115	191,605	471,400	1964-65
North Dakota	53	2,932,687	2,297,681	3,538,590	1987-88
South Dakota	66	601,830	678,550	1,462,815	1987-88
Wyoming	23	407,550	552,680	1,475,465	1982-83
SUBTOTAL		5,321,847	5,552,541		

Chart continues on next page

Southern Great Plains:

Colorado	37	273,731	1,403,655	5,975,000	1954-55
Kansas	105	189,600	5,126,250	5,126,250	1988-89
New Mexico	19	248,500	117,950	1,888,000	1954-55
Oklahoma	30	136,800	111,930	690,000	1954-55
Texas	147	1,668,000	1,979,626	5,691,800	1983-84
SUBTOTAL		2,516,631	8,739,411		
TOTAL	541	7,838,478	14,291,952		

* The record high for land damaged by wind erosion in the Great Plains is 15,339,000 acres, set in 1954-55; the record high for the Northern Great Plains is 6,758,000 acres in 1987-88; and for the Southern Great Plains, 12,749,000 in 1954-55.

**Land Damaged by Wind Erosion in the Great Plains Region,
1955-1990**

Year	Acres Damaged
1954-55	15,339,000
1955-56	9,302,000
1956-57	10,347,000
1957-58	3,705,000
1958-59	3,132,000
1959-60	2,396,000
1960-61	2,324,000
1961-62	1,430,000
1962-63	3,049,000
1963-64	4,295,000
1964-65	3,901,000
1965-66	1,157,000
1966-67	2,433,000
1967-68	1,178,000
1968-69	995,000
1969-70	1,878,000
1970-71	4,764,000
1971-72	2,244,000

Chart continues on next page

1972-73	1,988,000
1973-74	3,756,000
1974-75	5,683,000
1975-76	6,164,000
1976-77	7,993,000
1977-78	2,845,000
1978-79	2,876,000
1979-80	5,135,000
1980-81	12,489,000
1981-82	5,106,000
1982-83	5,541,000
1983-84	12,333,000
1984-85	8,502,000
1985-86	8,834,000
1986-87	6,038,000
1987-88	11,872,000
1988-89	14,294,000
1989-90	7,841,000

Diana Morse (202) 447-4772

#

USDA SCHEDULES PUBLIC HEARINGS ON HACCP SYSTEM FOR MEAT AND POULTRY INSPECTION

WASHINGTON, June 26—The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service has scheduled five public hearings to discuss the incorporation of the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) system into federal meat and poultry inspection operations.

HACCP is an analytical system which, when applied to meat and poultry processing operations, can help prevent hazardous, unwholesome or adulterated food from reaching consumers.

The hearings are open to the public, industry, consumer and public interest groups, professional organizations and FSIS employees. FSIS invites comments, suggestions, recommendations and questions about how the agency might best incorporate HACCP into inspection operations and about FSIS' ongoing two-year HACCP study.

“The HACCP system is a highly specialized approach to the identification and prevention of hazards during the processing of food,” said FSIS Administrator Dr. Lester M. Crawford. “In January, FSIS initiated a two-year study to determine the optimal process for implementing HACCP in meat and poultry inspection operations. These hearings are an integral part of that study.”

Topics to be discussed at the hearings include selection of specific products and processes as subjects for workshops to develop generic HACCP plans, how the workshops will be structured, how HACCP will be tested and evaluated, and other matters.

Individuals and organizations who want to testify should submit a letter requesting to participate. Each presentation will be limited to 10 minutes. Those who do not submit a notice of participation may testify if time permits.

Written requests to participate and general questions about the hearings should be sent to: Catherine M. DeRoever, Director, Executive Secretariat, Food Safety and Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 3175-S, Washington, D.C. 20250; telephone (202) 447-9150.

For more information about HACCP and the issues to be discussed at the hearings, contact Denise Clarke, Deputy Director, Information and Legislative Affairs, Food Safety and Inspection Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Room 1148-S, Washington, D.C. 20250; telephone (202) 447-7608.

The five hearings are scheduled for:

—Dallas, Texas, June 29 - Federal Building, 1100 Commerce Street, Room 7A23.

—Philadelphia, Pa., July 17 - William J. Green Federal Building, 600 Arch Street, Room 3306/10.

—Atlanta, Ga., July 19 - Richard B. Russell Building, 75 Spring Street, Strom Auditorium.

—Sacramento, Calif., July 24 - Community Convention Center, 1100 14th Street, Yolo Room.

—Evanston, Ill., Aug. 1 - Northwestern University, Evanston Campus, Harris Hall, 1881 Sheridan Road, Room 107.

The hearings will all be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

FSIS and its 9,000 employees are dedicated to ensuring that all meat and poultry products sold in interstate commerce are safe, wholesome and accurately labeled.

Jim Greene (202) 382-0314

#

STATES TO RECEIVE MORE MONEY FOR WIC PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, June 26—The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced forty-six states will receive an additional \$11 million through USDA's annual reallocation of funds for the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children, commonly known as the WIC Program.

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service, which administers WIC nationally, regularly reallocates unspent and carry-over program funds. This year FNS has made available almost \$9 million to help state programs continue serving as many clients as possible, plus about \$2 million to assist states in administrative funding.

About half of the states have been facing budgetary problems with WIC, mainly due to unexpectedly high food costs, especially for dairy and citrus products. In those states, changes have been made in the program to save costs by adjusting food packages or reducing services to some lower-priority clients.

"Many states have managed their WIC caseloads carefully enough that they aren't having any budgetary problems," said FNS Administrator Betty Jo Nelsen. "Others have had to economize in the face of increased costs, just as a family does, by choosing less expensive but nutritious foods. This extra money from the reallocation will help those states which are dealing with particularly tight budgets keep up services to as many of their clients as possible."

Nationally, the reallocated money will allow states to provide an additional 300,000 food packages to clients over the next three months which will end fiscal year 1990.

The funds will be available to states on July 1 and will supplement the more than \$2 billion allocated for WIC this fiscal year. Over 4.5 million women, infants and children participate in the WIC program.

The following is a list of states, including Guam and Puerto Rico, which will receive reallocated funds:

**Land Damaged by Wind Erosion in the Great Plains Region,
1955-1990**

Alaska	\$9,407
Arizona	\$268,601
Arkansas	\$370,537
California	\$1,422,431
Colorado	\$91,733
Connecticut	\$44,279
District of Columbia	\$12,881
Florida	\$693,139
Georgia	\$297,474
Guam	\$8,867
Idaho	\$117,228
Illinois	\$517,904
Indiana	\$358,805
Iowa	\$150,472
Kansas	\$118,026
Kentucky	\$158,623
Maine	\$57,549
Maryland	\$167,096
Massachusetts	\$169,027
Michigan	\$215,490
Minnesota	\$129,346
Missouri	\$283,778
Montana	\$41,174
Nebraska	\$61,030
Nevada	\$26,719
New Hampshire	\$16,223
New Jersey	\$294,132
New Mexico	\$68,983
New York	\$1,033,117
North Carolina	\$323,085
North Dakota	\$25,145
Ohio	\$286,840
Oklahoma	\$195,547
Oregon	\$219,926
Pennsylvania	\$554,853

Chart continues on next page

Puerto Rico	\$551,264
Rhode Island	\$13,195
South Dakota	\$58,121
Texas	\$1,160,818
Utah	\$191,668
Vermont	\$15,241
Virginia	\$264,946
Washington	\$182,096
West Virginia	\$101,088
Wisconsin	\$154,914
Wyoming	\$11,419

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YEUTTER AND LUJAN ANNOUNCE FIVE-POINT PLAN TO PRESERVE OWL AND PROTECT JOBS

WASHINGTON, June 26—Secretary of Agriculture Clayton Yeutter and Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan today announced a five-point package of measures in response to the listing of the Northern Spotted Owl as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973. The measures spell out the response of federal land management agencies to the Fish and Wildlife Service listing on June 22. They are designed to achieve a balance between preservation of the owl and the protection of jobs and economic opportunity in the Pacific Northwest.

“The administration is deeply concerned both about endangered species and the livelihood of families in the Pacific Northwest who depend on timber production,” said Yeutter. “We take the Endangered Species Act seriously and will implement the law faithfully,” he added. “Today we have set into motion a process to balance our responsibility in preserving the owl and forests while protecting the economic lives of American men and women who live and work in the region.”

The five points announced today are as follows:

First, Lujan announced that the Bureau of Land Management will implement a strategy which fully complies with ESA and which can preserve a greater number of owls but involves less economic dislocation than that developed by the Interagency Scientific Committee (ISC), also known as the Thomas Committee. Under the new BLM approach, an

additional 125 pairs of owls will be protected beyond the recommendations of the ISC report. BLM estimates show that its plan would result in the loss of 1,000 jobs due to reduced timber harvests on BLM lands in Oregon and northern California. The federal government had previously estimated that 7,600 jobs would be lost from implementation of the ISC conservation plan on BLM lands in the region.

Second, in fiscal year 1990 both the Forest Service and BLM timber sales will follow the provisions of Section 318 of the fiscal year 1990 Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act. These sales will be made in full compliance with the ESA and have been prepared in a manner not inconsistent with the ISC report. Yeutter pointed out that the listing which takes effect July 23 will not have an immediate impact on timber harvests on FS lands.

Yeutter and Lujan pledged that the FS, BLM and FWS would expedite timber sales pursuant to the ESA process. This action will assist FS and BLM to minimize delay of timber sales and be consistent in achieving the Congressionally mandated level of timber for this fiscal year.

Third, the administration will convene a high level interagency task force, chaired by the secretary of agriculture, to begin work immediately on devising a forest management plan for the FS for fiscal year 1991. The task force will work in close consultation with key members of Congress from the committees with jurisdiction over forestry and endangered species issues and from the affected states, as well as the governors of those states.

Over the longer term, Yeutter pointed out that implementation of the conservation strategy recommended in the ISC report for FS lands would have entailed significant job loss. The federal government currently estimates that the reduced timber harvests on FS lands would result in the loss of 20,000 jobs by the year 2000, unless we develop a conservation strategy that takes economic and social considerations into account as well as biological ones.

“The president has charged us with finding a balance between protection of owl habitat and concern for jobs,” Yeutter said. The task force report will be submitted to the president no later than Sept. 1.

Fourth, the administration will seek to convene the Endangered Species Committee, under existing law, should a Federal agency receive a “jeopardy” opinion from the FWS on a proposed timber sale or harvest plan. The Endangered Species Committee is steered by the secretary of the interior and consists of the secretaries of agriculture and the army,

the administrators for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Environmental Protection Agency, the chairman of the Council of Economic advisors, and one person appointed by the president from each affected state.

The administration will soon be submitting legislation to the Congress to broaden the mandate of the Endangered Species Committee to allow it to develop a more balanced long-term forest management plan for the region.

As a result of today's decisions, the administration will be seeking passage of several pieces of legislation in the coming months. Specifically, the administration will ask the Congress to pass legislation which will:

- Adopt the BLM forest management strategy so as to allow its implementation to proceed without disruption by court challenge;
- Adopt the interim management plan developed by the interagency task force for FS lands and allow its implementation without court challenge; and
- Expand the mandate of the Endangered Species Committee to allow it to develop a long-term forest management plan for Federal lands.

Fifth, the administration announced support for the provisions of the Customs and Trade Act of 1990 which would ban the export of raw logs taken from state lands. Enactment of these provisions, contained in amendments to the Act now pending before a House-Senate Conference Committee, will reduce job loss in the Pacific Northwest by about 6,000 jobs by the year 2000, according to Forest Service estimates.

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SCHNEIDERS EXPANDS RECALL OF FRANKS NATIONWIDE

WASHINGTON, June 26—J.M. Schneider, Inc., of Ontario, Canada, is voluntarily expanding its recall of "Schneider's Franks" to include grocery markets nationwide. The franks may be contaminated with the bacterium *Listeria monocytogenes*.

The franks are sold in 1-pound plastic packages. The words "Canada 35" appear inside the inspection seal on the label. Approximately 22,000 pounds of franks bearing the "Best before" date of "Jul 03" are being recalled.

The original recall of June 22 was confined only to unspecified states in “the Northeastern United States.” However, further investigation revealed the franks were distributed in California, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Ohio, Maryland and Texas.

“Although no illnesses have been associated with listeria, several consumer complaints are being investigated,” said Dr. Ronald J. Prucha, associate administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service. “We urge consumers to return the suspect franks to the place of purchase,” said Prucha. None of the company’s other products are involved in the recall.

The problem was discovered during a routine USDA import reinspection in Buffalo, N.Y.

Consumption of food contaminated with *Listeria monocytogenes* can cause listeriosis, a rare but potentially serious disease. In general, healthy people are believed to be at little risk from listeriosis; most vulnerable are those with weakened immune systems—infants, the elderly, and the chronically ill. Listeriosis in pregnant women can cause miscarriage.

Symptoms of listeriosis in adults include the sudden onset of flulike symptoms such as fever, chills, headache, backache, and sometimes abdominal pain and diarrhea. Symptoms in newborns include respiratory distress, refusal to drink, and vomiting.

Consumers with questions about the recall may phone the toll-free USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline at 1-800-535-4555. The hotline can be reached from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Eastern time Monday through Friday. At other times a recording with information about the recall will be provided. Callers in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area should call 447-3333. Both phone numbers provide access to a telecommunications device for the deaf.

The Food Safety and Inspection Service ensures the safety of all meat and poultry products sold in interstate commerce—including products from other countries. FSIS inspection also ensures product wholesomeness and accuracy of labeling information.

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USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES

WASHINGTON, June 26—Under Secretary of Agriculture Richard T. Crowder today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

- long grain whole kernels, 8.36 cents per pound;
- medium grain whole kernels, 7.48 cents per pound;
- short grain whole kernels, 7.41 cents per pound;
- broken kernels, 4.18 cents per pound.

Based upon these prevailing world market prices for milled rice, rough rice world prices are estimated to be:

- long grain, \$5.25 per hundredweight;
- medium grain, \$4.82 per hundredweight;
- short grain, \$4.79 per hundredweight.

Today's changes of world price reflect changes in world milled rice prices and adjustments for domestic by-product values.

The prices announced are effective today at 3 p.m. EDT. The next scheduled price announcement will be made July 3 at 3 p.m. EDT, although prices may be announced sooner if warranted.

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GENETICALLY ENGINEERED POTATOES PLANTED IN WASHINGTON STATE

WASHINGTON, June 27—Potato plants with a gene borrowed from a beetle-killing bacterium are being studied in outdoor tests headed by a U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist in Prosser, Wash.

“Ultimately, we want to know whether potato plants could use this genetic weapon to combat Colorado potato beetles with little or no chemical insecticide,” said geneticist Charles R. Brown, of USDA's Agricultural Research Service. The tests begin this week.

“For now, though, it's critical to see if this potentially useful foreign gene has any effect on plant yield, health or growth or causes other variations of concern to farmers,” he said. “That's the purpose of the current tests.”

Based at the research agency's Vegetable and Forage Crops Research Unit in Prosser, Brown is collaborating with scientists from the University of Washington, Seattle and an ARS researcher in Yakima, Wash. The quarter-acre plots are at Washington State University's Agriculture Research and Extension Center in Prosser.

Brown said the new gene in potato plants is from a strain of a bacterium, *Bacillus thuringiensis* or Bt, that lives in soil and naturally makes a beetle-killing protein. When a beetle larva consumes Bt, the protein disrupts its gut and it slowly starves. Accepted by organic farmers for insect control, Bt is harmless to bees, other beneficial insects, animals and people, Brown noted.

The outdoor tests—the first in the U.S. to involve Bt genes placed in potatoes—were approved by USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, because they pose no significant impact on the environment.

“The Colorado potato beetle,” Brown said, “is probably the worst potato insect pest worldwide and has become resistant to many chemical insecticides.” Rhone-Poulenc Ag Company, manufacturer of an effective anti-beetle pesticide, aldicarb, voluntarily halted sales of that pesticide for potatoes this year because of unacceptable residue levels found in some potatoes.

Controlling Colorado potato beetles costs U.S. potato growers millions of dollars each year, Brown said. The peanut-size, brown and yellow striped bugs also attack tomato and eggplant.

Various strains of Bt already are sprayed to control the beetles and a range of caterpillar pests of crops and trees. But getting a plant to make its own Bt protein would provide continuous beetle control without the need for repeated spraying, which can be time consuming and costly, Brown said.

For the tests, the scientists will take several precautions to make sure the foreign gene isn't transferred to other potato plants. They will pinch off flower buds so pollen containing the new gene can't be carried to other plants by bumblebees. Harvested potatoes will be destroyed when the study is complete and any plants that sprout from potatoes inadvertently will be killed by herbicide. Finally, no potatoes will be planted in the plot for the next two growing seasons.

While the field test proceeds, the scientists are simultaneously running studies in the lab and greenhouse to see how effective potato plants are in manufacturing the Bt protein. They are also conducting beetle feeding experiments on the genetically altered plants.

Other research teams at private companies and universities have raised tomato, cotton and tobacco plants that incorporate a Bt gene and show pest resistance.

Brown’s collaborators include university of Washington molecular geneticists helen R. Whiteley, Gene W. Nester and Douglas Bradley, who cloned the Bt gene used in the experiments.

Entomologist K. Duane Biever, at ARS’s Fruit and Vegetable Research Unit in Yakima supervises the beetle feeding tests in the greenhouse.

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**THIS WEEK’S HONEY-LOAN REPAYMENT LEVELS
UNCHANGED**

WASHINGTON, June 28—Producers may repay their 1989 honey price-support loans at the following levels, according to Keith D. Bjerke, executive vice president of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Commodity Credit Corporation:

Weekly Honey-loan Repayment Levels, color and class, cents per pound, 1989 crop Table

White	40.0
Extra-light Amber	37.0
Light Amber	36.0
Amber	35.0
Nontable	33.0

The weekly repayment level for 1990-crop honey is 38.0 cents per pound for all colors, table and nontable grades.

Levels are unchanged from those announced last week.

Producers who redeem their honey pledged as loan collateral by repaying their honey-price support loans at these levels may not repledge the same honey as collateral for another loan.

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